

Department of the Army
Headquarters 24th Infantry Division (MECH) and Fort Riley
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442



Retirement Services
Newsletter



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This newsletter is published by the Retirement Services Office, Office of the G1/AG, as a service to all military retirees and their dependents, and widows(ers) residing within the Fort Riley area of responsibility. Articles in this publication do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the Commander of this installation or the Department of the Army.

Retiree Appreciation Day Set for September 10, 2004

The Commanding General, Headquarters, 24th Infantry Division will host the Annual Retiree Appreciation Day on 10 September 2004 at the Holiday Inn, Holidome, Manhattan, KS from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.

This year's keynote speaker will be LTG (Ret) John A. Dubia, Co-Chairman, Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council. LTG Dubia will address current issues of interest to the retiree community including advances made by the National Defense Authorization Act FY04, and issues that were submitted to the Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council.

As a special guest speaker, one of the battalion commanders from 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division who has returned from Iraq will relate experiences, challenges, and accomplishments made by 3rd BDE in Iraq. This will be very interesting and well worth hearing.

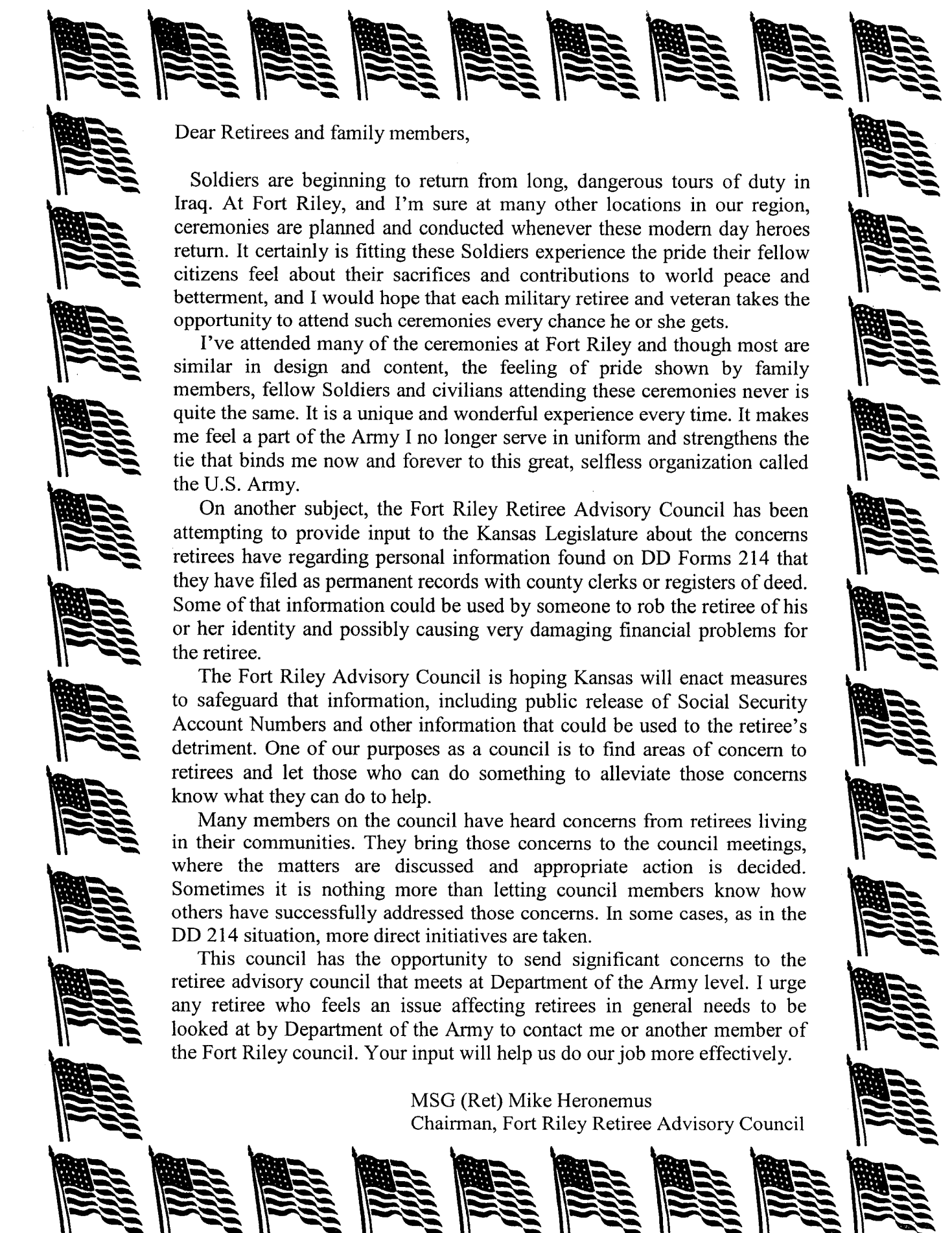
Other speakers will be COL Marilyn Brooks, Commander, Irwin Army Community Hospital, Mark Derby, Commissary Director, and Rick Talbot, Post Exchange Director.

A luncheon buffet will also be served at a cost of \$15.00 per person. The menu and registration form for the luncheon can be found in the back of this newsletter.

The Health Fair and County Fair will begin at 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. IACH personnel will be on hand to provide basic health screening and information. The basic health screening will include blood pressure screening, cataract screening, and a variety of healthcare maintenance counseling. As an added attraction, IACH will be giving a tour of the hospital at 3:00 p.m. to all those interested.

The tour will begin in the main lobby with a brief history of the hospital and information about facility upgrades/construction and renovation. Areas to be toured include the Primary Care Clinic, General Surgery, Physical Therapy, Ortho Laboratory, Radiology, Pharmacy, Emergency Room, and the TRICARE offices. The tour will end in the basement where the dining facility, Inpatient pharmacy and Nutrition Care Clinic are located.

Cont. Retiree Appreciation Day



Dear Retirees and family members,

Soldiers are beginning to return from long, dangerous tours of duty in Iraq. At Fort Riley, and I'm sure at many other locations in our region, ceremonies are planned and conducted whenever these modern day heroes return. It certainly is fitting these Soldiers experience the pride their fellow citizens feel about their sacrifices and contributions to world peace and betterment, and I would hope that each military retiree and veteran takes the opportunity to attend such ceremonies every chance he or she gets.

I've attended many of the ceremonies at Fort Riley and though most are similar in design and content, the feeling of pride shown by family members, fellow Soldiers and civilians attending these ceremonies never is quite the same. It is a unique and wonderful experience every time. It makes me feel a part of the Army I no longer serve in uniform and strengthens the tie that binds me now and forever to this great, selfless organization called the U.S. Army.

On another subject, the Fort Riley Retiree Advisory Council has been attempting to provide input to the Kansas Legislature about the concerns retirees have regarding personal information found on DD Forms 214 that they have filed as permanent records with county clerks or registers of deed. Some of that information could be used by someone to rob the retiree of his or her identity and possibly causing very damaging financial problems for the retiree.

The Fort Riley Advisory Council is hoping Kansas will enact measures to safeguard that information, including public release of Social Security Account Numbers and other information that could be used to the retiree's detriment. One of our purposes as a council is to find areas of concern to retirees and let those who can do something to alleviate those concerns know what they can do to help.

Many members on the council have heard concerns from retirees living in their communities. They bring those concerns to the council meetings, where the matters are discussed and appropriate action is decided. Sometimes it is nothing more than letting council members know how others have successfully addressed those concerns. In some cases, as in the DD 214 situation, more direct initiatives are taken.

This council has the opportunity to send significant concerns to the retiree advisory council that meets at Department of the Army level. I urge any retiree who feels an issue affecting retirees in general needs to be looked at by Department of the Army to contact me or another member of the Fort Riley council. Your input will help us do our job more effectively.

MSG (Ret) Mike Heronemus
Chairman, Fort Riley Retiree Advisory Council

Retiree Dental Program Still Going Strong

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) enters its sixth year of operation as a record 750,000 Uniformed Services retirees and their families now look to the program for affordable dental care. With low monthly rates based on single, two-person and full-family coverage, the TRDP represents one of the very best values available in health care.

Interest in the TRDP has been high since 1998 when the program was first introduced by Delta Dental of California, the nonprofit, dental carrier selected by the Department of Defense to administer the national program. More recently, Congress approved changes that make the program even more comprehensive. Today, enrollees enjoy immediate coverage and/or reduced waiting periods for crowns, bridges, dentures, orthodontics and dental accidents. The scope of benefits also includes routine cleanings and examinations, fillings, root canals, gum treatment and oral surgery.

Among the many program enhancements added in May, 2003 is an increase in the annual and lifetime orthodontic maximums; a shortened enrollment commitment; a single, 12-month waiting period for 50 percent of the allowed amount of coverage of crowns, bridges, dentures and orthodontics; and an expanded national dentist network for additional cost savings.

Since these changes were implemented, the TRDP has welcomed an average of over 7,300 new sponsors and their family members per month into the program.

Delta has also developed and improved several "self-service" tools to make both enrollment and customer service with the TRDP easier than ever. These include an enhanced, secure web site (at <http://www.trdp.org/>), and a new, automated Interactive Voice Response system, or "IVR."

Cont. Retiree Appreciation Day

Representatives of local veterans' organizations and various area agencies will also be there to talk about their respective services.

It is our pleasure to recognize the efforts of the men and women who have made the United States military the outstanding active force that it is today. We have planned this year's RAD with you in mind and sincerely hope to provide you and your family with pertinent information and an enjoyable day. Please plan to attend!

The "Subscriber Toolkit" available on the web site allows enrollees to verify their eligibility and review up-to-date benefits information, such as how much of their annual maximum they have used to date. Subscribers can also use the toolkit to review processed claims, reimbursements and payments made to their dentist, and to print new ID cards – all online.

With the IVR, enrollees can check their eligibility and request a list of network providers. Soon, they also will be able to use the IVR to check on the status of their dental claims as well.

"All these enhancements make the TRDP an even greater value to our current and potential enrollees," says Tom McDavid, director of Federal Marketing and Communications for Delta Dental. "Since the program's inception, we've exceeded all our enrollment projections by listening and being responsive to subscribers. The high number of enrollees who opt to remain enrolled beyond their initial commitment is probably the most powerful testament to their high satisfaction level with the program."

For more information about the TRDP or to obtain a complete enrollment package, visit the web site at www.trdp.org or call Delta toll-free at 1-(888) 838-8737.

Medicare Late Enrollment Penalty

As of mid-March, Medicare's managers still had not opened enrollment in Medicare Part B for up to 90,000 military retirees who did not enroll when first eligible. The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 authorizes those retirees to enroll without late penalties during a special enrollment period that ends this Dec. 31.

Once enrolled, they can obtain medical treatment and prescription services through Tricare for Life. Also under the act, military beneficiaries who enrolled in Part B in 2001, 2002, 2003, or 2004 and are paying late enrollment penalties can have them eliminated effective Jan. 1, 2004, by demonstrating that they are covered under Tricare for Life.

The clock continues to tick for these older retirees and spouses while they wait for Medicare's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to act, perhaps in April. [Source: Armed Forces News Issue 25 Mar 04]

DoD Recognizes Service for War on Terrorism

The Defense Department has established two new medals for service in the Global War on Terrorism. They are the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. These medals will be awarded to recognize all members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in or in support of Global War on Terrorism operations, on or after 11 September 2001 to a date to be determined.

The GWOTEM will be awarded to soldiers who deployed abroad. Under no condition will any soldiers in the United States receive the GWOTEM. Only soldiers serving in an operationally deployed status within the AOE are eligible for the GWOTEM.

The initial award of the GWOTSM will be limited to airport security operations (from 27 Sep 01 through 31 May 02) and soldiers who supported operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. All soldiers on active duty, including reserve component soldiers mobilized, or National Guard soldiers activated on or after 11 Sep 2001 to a date to be determined having served 30 consecutive days or for 60 nonconsecutive days are authorized the GWOTSM.

War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

RIBBON: Scarlet, white and blue represent the United States. Light blue refers to worldwide cooperation against terrorism, gold denotes excellence.

OBVERSE: A bronze color metal disc charged with a shield adapted from the Great Seal of the United States surmounting two swords hilts to base saltirewise enclosed within a wreath of laurel; overall an eagle, wings displayed, grasping in its claws a serpent. The shield and eagle represent the United States. The swords denote readiness and the resolve to fight international terrorism, which is symbolized by the serpent crushed in the eagle's claws. The wreath denotes honor and achievement.

REVERSE: The eagle, serpent and swords from the front of the medal within the encircling inscription "WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL."

Both GWOT medals may be awarded posthumously to any soldier who lost his/her life while, or as a direct result of participating in Global War on Terrorism operations without regard to length of such service.

Soldiers who retired or were discharged in the past 90 to 120 days should submit request for award of the GWOT medals to Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, ATTN: AHRC-PDQ-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. Requests should include a copy of the DD Form 214 and any supporting documents to substantiate service. The GWOT medal(s) will be added to the DD Form 214 by issuance of a DD Form 215.

Soldiers who retired or were discharged over 120 days should submit their requests to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), www.archives.gov in St. Louis, MO. NPRC's address is National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave. St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Requests should include a copy of the DD Form 214 and any supporting documentation to substantiate service. NPRC will add the authorized GWOT medal(s) to the DD Form 214 by issuing a DD Form 215.

War on Terrorism Service Medal

RIBBON: Scarlet, white and blue represents the United States. Gold denotes excellence.

OBVERSE: A bronze color metal disc charged with an eagle, wings displayed, with a stylized shield of thirteen vertical bars on its breast and holding in dexter claw an olive branch and in sinister claw three arrows, all in front of a terrestrial globe with the inscription above, "WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL." The eagle and shield adapted from the Great Seal, represents the United States. They protect the globe above and behind, symbolizing American resolve to combat and overcome global elements of international terrorism. The laurel wreath represents the drive for peace. The three arrows signify vigilance, resolve, and peace.

REVERSE: A laurel wreath on a plain field.

Defense Dept. Establishes New Award - KDSM

The Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM) is authorized to members of the Armed Forces who have served on active duty in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea from 28 July 1954 to a date to be determined. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea, and the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas.

Service members must have been assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive or for 60 nonconsecutive days, or meet the following criteria:

(A) Be engaged in combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility.

(B) Is wounded or injured in the line of duty and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility.

(C) While participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember flying sorties into, out of, or within the area of eligibility in direct support of military operations. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30 or 60-day requirement.

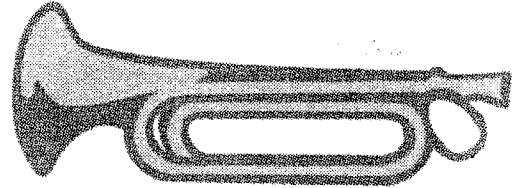
(D) Personnel who serve in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility are considered eligible for the award as long as the basic time criteria is met. Due to extensive time period for KDSM eligibility, the nonconsecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period.

The KDSM may be awarded posthumously to any soldier who lost his/her life without regard to length of such service. Only one award of the KDSM is authorized for any individual. Medals will be available in the supply system by May 2004.

Requests for award of the KDSM to veterans, retirees, or their next of kin will be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), www.archives.gov in St. Louis, MO. NPRC's address is: National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

Requests need to include documents supporting service in Korea from 28 July 1954 to date to be determined. NPRC will add the KDSM to the DD Form 214 by issuing a DD Form 215.

Members of the Army Reserve and National Guard should contact their current records custodian to have their records updated.



DoD Approves Ceremonial Bugle

The Department of Defense provides military funeral honors free of charge to thousands of veterans' families each year. These honors demonstrate the nation's deep gratitude to those who, in time of war and peace, have defended their country. The ceremonial paying of respect is a final tribute to their service. Only 500 buglers are on active duty at any given time but about 1,800 veterans, who are eligible for honor ceremonies, die each day across the country. A law effective January 2000 allows the playing of a recorded version of Taps if a live horn player is not available.

DoD, after a six-month test, has approved the use of a push-button bugle that plays Taps by itself. This allows honor guard members vice musicians to play "Taps" at veteran funeral honors ceremonies. It contains a small device that can be inserted deep into the bell of a bugle that plays a high-quality rendition of Taps virtually indistinguishable from a live bugler.

The ceremonial bugle is intended to be a dignified alternative to pre-recorded Taps played on a stereo, but will not be used as a substitute for a military musician when one is available. To use the device, a member of an honor guard needs merely to push a button and hold the bugle to his or her lips. A five-second delay gives guards time to raise the instrument to their lips as if they are going to play it. It offers several other advantages over a stereo, including increased reliability. [Source: DoD News Release No. 652-03 dtd 3 Sep 03]



Army's G1 Praises Efforts of Women Warriors

Brig. Gen. Gina S. Farrisee, the Army's Adjutant General visited Fort Riley in March for the observance of Women's History Month. She was the keynote speaker at the March 24th program hosted by the Equal Employment Opportunity office.

"American women have bravely served in the United States since its earliest days. Since 1901, with the establishment of the Army's nurse's corps women have proudly served in a variety of critical positions and, today, women make up 15 percent of the active duty military force and 17 percent of the Guard and Army Reserve," said Brig. Gen. Farrisee.

"About 9 percent of the Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom forces are women. About 60,000 women have served in Afghanistan and Iraq since October 2002," she said.

Women's roles in combat have increased as a result of the war in Iraq, including flying armed aircraft and patrolling streets with armed machine

guns. "Female soldiers in Iraq have killed the enemy with bombs and with bullets. They have won medals for valor and Purple Hearts for combat wounds. They have been captured as prisoners of war, killed by enemy fire and buried as heroes in Arlington National Cemetery and countless cemeteries across the country," Farrisee said.

"Women know, when they are in Iraq, they are equally at risk. It is evident, that women today play an equal role in the defense of the nation and in accomplishing the Army's missions, what ever they are. Female Soldiers should be treated with the same courtesy, dignity and respect afforded any Soldier, nothing more, but absolutely nothing less," she said.

Brig. Gen. Farrisee further added, "Females should ask for nothing more. They should take whatever comes with a Soldier's life and ask for no easy way out. If you want to be a Soldier, then soldier!" [Source: Fort Riley Post]

DoD Braces for Another Round of Base Closures

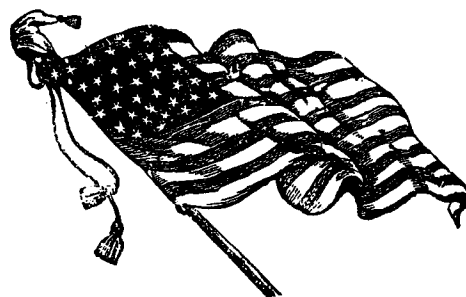
The 2005 round will begin in March 2005 when the President, in consultation with congressional leaders, will appoint the nine-member base closing commission. Two months later on 16 May, the defense secretary will submit his list of facilities to be closed. It will take seven members to add a facility to that list, but just a simple majority to remove a facility.

The President may approve that list and send it to Congress, or reject it and send it back to the commission. Neither Congress nor the President can make changes to the list. If he accepts the list, it becomes law unless Congress votes against it within 45 days. This has never happened since Congressmen from districts spared closures think the list is fair.

Army bases currently proposed for realignment or closure in 2005 include: Carlisle Barracks PA, Detroit Arsenal MI, Fort Belvoir VA, Fort Buchanan PR, Fort McPherson/Gillem GA, Fort Monmouth NJ, Fort Monroe VA, Fort Polk LA (to realign), Fort Richardson AK, Fort Sam Houston TX, Fort Shafter HI, Lima Army Tank Plant OK,

Natick Soldier Center MA, Picatinny Arsenal NJ, Redstone Arsenal AL, Rock Island Arsenal IL, Sierra Army Depot CA, and Yuma Proving Ground AZ.

Air Force bases include: Altus AFB OK, Beale AFB CA, Brooks AFB TX, Cannon AFB NM, Columbus AFB MS, Ellsworth AFB SD, Goodfellow AFB TX, Grand Forks AFB ND, Hanscom AFB MA, Kirtland AFB NM, Los Angeles AFB CA, McConnell AFB KS, Nellis AFB NV (to realign), Seymour Johnson AFB NC (to realign), Shaw AFB SC, Vance AFB OK. [Source: NAUS Update 26 Mar 04, S&T Resources and Program Development]



Remembering Our Fallen Female Heroes

Capt. Gussie M. Jones, 41, of the 31st Combat Support Hospital, 31st Air Defense Artillery, Fort Bliss, Texas

Pfc. Nichole M. Frye, 19, of the Army Reserve's Company A, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, based in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Pfc. Holly J. McGeogh, 19, of Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (Mech), based at Fort Hood, Texas

Spc. Tamarra J. Ramos, 24, of 3rd Armor Medical Company, Medical Troop Regimental Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.

Sgt. Keicia Melia Hines, 27, of the 108th Military Police Company, 503rd Military Police Battalion (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.

Capt. Kimberly N. Hampton, 27, of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Aviation Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. Killed when her OH-58 Kiowa Warrior observation helicopter was attacked near the Iraqi town of Fallujah.

Staff Sgt. Kimberly A. Voelz, 27, from 703rd Explosive Ordnance Detachment, Fort Knox, KY. Died in her husband's arm in Baghdad from her injuries after an improvised explosive device detonated before she could disarm it. Voelz and her husband were both staff sergeants serving in Iraq as EOD specialists.

Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of the Judge Advocate General's Office, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Pentagon

Pfc. Karina S. Lau, 20, of the 16th Signal Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas

Spc. Frances M. Vega, 20, of the 151st Adjutant General Postal Detachment 3, Fort Hood, Texas

Pfc. Rachel K. Bosveld, 19, of the 527th Military Police Company, V Corps, Giessen, Germany. Killed Oct 26, 2003 in a mortar attack on the Baghdad Police Station.

Pfc. Analaura Esparza Gutierrez, 21, of Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas

Spc. Alyssa R. Peterson, 27, of Company C, 311th Military Intelligence Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY

Sgt. Melissa Valles, 26, from Company B, 64th Forward Support Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo.

Pfc. Lori Ann Piestewa, 23, of the 507th Ordnance Maintenance Company, Fort Bliss, Texas. Was the first servicewoman to be killed in the war.

Sgt. Linda C. Jimenez, 39, of the 2nd Squadron Combat Support Aviation (Maintenance), 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, LA.



Rendering Military Funeral Honors is the nation's way of showing gratitude to soldiers, who have faithfully defended our country. Honoring those who served, is our nation's commitment. We take pride in recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of the nation's veterans. This ceremony of respect is the final demonstration a grateful nation can provide to the families of veterans.

Military Funeral Honors should consist of an honor guard detail of two or more members of the armed forces. One of the members of the honor guard must be a representative of the deceased member's branch of service. The honor guard detail will fold and present the American Flag to the next of kin and play taps.

Military Funeral Honors are provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to the family.

Proposal Would Limit VA Housing Loans

Many veterans purchase a home utilizing their VA Certificate of Eligibility, which upon underwriter's approval allows the VA to guaranty a portion of the veteran's loan. Under present rules service members, active duty veterans, National Guard and Reserve members with at least six years of service, and surviving spouses that have not remarried can use their eligibility over and over again to purchase another home if their eligibility has been reinstated by selling or refinancing the original loan not using a VA loan.

According to the Bush budget proposal for fiscal year 2005, his administration is proposing to end the multiple use of the VA guaranteed mortgages over the next five years. In an effort to refocus the VA loan program, the administration will be sending legislation to congress that would limit eligibility for veterans' housing loans to one-time use in lieu of the life-time, multi-use entitlement it has become.

While the administration proposal would not limit access to VA mortgage loans by active-duty members of the armed forces, it would affect the balance of the millions of US veterans. If Congress approves the proposal, current veterans would have unlimited use for five years and then only once thereafter.

Annual Memorial Ceremony Recognizes Vietnam Vets

Every spring there is a ceremony alongside the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that commemorates those whose deaths were attributable to the Vietnam War but whose names are not on The Wall. These would include those who died from Agent Orange complications, suicide, etc.

In order for a loved one to be honored at the In Memory ceremony, one must call the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund at (202) 393-0090 and request an application. The application must be returned with a copy of the DD-214, the death certificate, and two photographs. After the application has been reviewed and approved, the name will be added. [Source: Wm. Sawyer <http://silverrose.org> SEP 03]

Veterans who disagree with the president's proposal to end lifetime use of this benefit should contact their legislators and express their concerns over this effort to limit veterans' benefits. [Source: www.valoans.com/monthlynewsletter.cfm & MSC Newsletter Mar 04]



Officials Extend Stateside Space-A Travel Test Indefinitely

The Air Mobility Command's Air Transportation Division announced that the one-year test to expand space-available travel privileges to family members of active-duty and retired personnel traveling within the Continental United States has been extended until further notice. The extension will allow the test to continue while the Office of the Secretary of Defense completes its evaluation of the results.

Under the "Space-A" test phase, the family members of active-duty and retired military people are able to travel "Space-A" aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors. The test does not apply to "Gray-Area" retirees (Guard and Reserve members who are retired but not yet eligible for retired pay and benefits).

The one-year test initially scheduled to end 1 Apr 04 was proposed as a way to improve quality-of-life privileges for military service people and their families. Prior to the test, regulations prohibited family members from flying space available within the CONUS. Additional Space-A travel and signup information is available through the Headquarters AMC Passenger Policy Branch Web site at <http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>. A list of passenger terminals and phone numbers can be found there. [Source: Military.com msg dtd 23 Mar 04]

Divorced Veterans Plan Fight to Protect Retirement Pay

A group of divorced veterans has hired a legal team headed by Constitutional attorney Jonathan L. Katz of Silver Spring, MD, to protect their retirement pay from property division in divorce court. Called the ULSG, LLC, (USFSPA-Litigation Support Group) the veterans' group contests the constitutionality of the Uniform Services Former Spouses' Protection Act (USFSPA).

The twenty-year-old law undoes a Supreme Court ruling that protected veterans' retirement pay from being divided with ex-spouses in divorce court. It does not even exempt veterans who joined the military before the law was ever passed. This amounts to an unconstitutionally retroactive application of the law.

Senator Corzine Introduces Bill For SBP Paid-Up Provision

The Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, signed into law as Public Law 105-261 on 17 Oct 98, authorized a paid-up provision to the SBP. The law states that, effective 1 Oct 2008, no reduction may be made in the retired pay of a participant in the Plan for any month after the later of the 360th month of retired pay reduction and the month during which the participant attains 70 years of age.

Thus, beginning with the retired pay entitlement and SBP coverage in effect for the month of October 2008, SBP premium reductions shall no longer be made from the retired pay of qualified participants. The first payment affected would be the payment normally due in November 2008.

Enrollment in the RSFPP, the earlier annuity program sponsored by the military, will not be counted in determining the qualifying SBP enrollment period. Only SBP participation, which began 21 Sep 72, will be used for this purpose. Public Law 106-65, signed into law 5 Oct 99, extended the paid-up provision to active RSFPP participants.

Sen. Jon Corzine (NJ) has introduced the Military Survivors' Fairness Act of 2004 (S. 2177), that would change the effective date for paid-up coverage to 1 Oct 2004 under the military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). [Source: Various Mar 04]

The ULSG also points out that divorce court treatment of veterans' retirement pay varies tremendously depending on the state where the divorce takes place. As a result, countless military members are thrust into a particular divorce court not by choice but because the government assigned them to a particular state. It is not fair that servicemembers' rights in their retirement pay be at the risk of the state where they are assigned to serve their country.

Although this law may have been passed with the intention of protecting the ex-spouses of male military members, the issue is no longer gender-based.

Those interested in obtaining further information on joining or supporting the lawsuit can email jon@markskatz.com or review <http://usfspa-lawsuit.info>. [Source: ULSG News Release Aug 03]

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Annuitants Be Aware

Annuitants should be aware that failure to return the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) received each year from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), will result in termination of their pay.

The COE is mailed about 3 months prior to the annuitant's birthday and must be completed, signed and returned by the annuitant, or legal representative if there is one on the account, prior to the birthday. DFAS will continue, adjust, or terminate the annuitant's pay as appropriate according to the information provided on the form.

If the COE reflects a new marriage, a copy of the marriage certificate is required to update the account. Remarriage after age 55 does not result in a termination of the SBP annuity but DFAS needs this information. An annuitant should include his/her name and Social Security number (SSN) and that of his/her deceased spouse.

Forms can be mailed to DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, PO Box 7031, London, KY 40742-7131 or faxed to 1-800-982-8459.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
USA MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY
600 CAISSON HILL ROAD
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-5037

April 14, 2004

Office of the Commander

Dear Retiree:

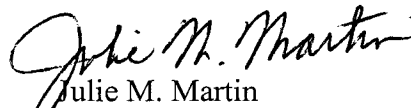
The staff at Irwin Army Community Hospital continually strive to meet the needs of the community and support the retiree beneficiary population. Therefore, I will conduct a briefing on current healthcare topics affecting the retiree population in conjunction with the Annual Fort Riley Retiree Appreciation Day on September 10th at the Holiday Inn, Manhattan, Kansas. Furthermore, various members of the hospital staff will conduct a Health Fair from 1300-1530 hours. Retirees from every branch of service are welcome.

The Health Fair will provide retirees, spouses, and family members the opportunity to receive basic health screening and to browse through several health information booths. The basic health screening will include blood pressure screening and healthcare maintenance counseling. Influenza vaccinations will be offered if the vaccine is received in time for the Retiree Appreciation Day. The Health Fair will focus on medical education and screening and is not intended to replace the need to maintain a relationship with your primary health care provider.

Representatives from TriWest, the TRICARE managed care support contractor for our region, will be available for questions during my briefing and also during the Health Fair. They are prepared to answer questions about all retiree health care programs to include dental.

My briefing and the Health Fair are designed specifically for your benefit. Our military and civilian hospital staff are looking forward to your visit.

Sincerely,


Julie M. Martin
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
FORT RILEY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY
10 SEPTEMBER 2004

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
0800 – 0830	Registration	Holiday Inn, Holidome Manhattan, KS
0830 – 0840	Flag Salute/Invocation	
0840 – 0900	Welcome by CG (MG Dennis E. Hardy) Alternate – ADC (M) (BG Francis H. Kearney III)	
0900 – 0930	Special Guest, LTC Leopoldo Quintas, Cdr, 2/70 AR	
0930 – 0940	Break	
0940 – 1020	Guest Speaker, LTG (Ret) John A. Dubia Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council, Co-Chairman	
1020 – 1030	Break	
1030 – 1045	Commissary Director (MARK DERBY)	
1045 – 1100	PX Manager (RICK TALBOT)	
1100 – 1200	Hospital Commander (COL MARILYN BROOKS)	
1200 – 1300	Lunch	Holiday Inn, Holidome
1300 - 1530	Health Fair	
1330 – 1530	County Fair	

2004 FORT RILEY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY
10 SEPTEMBER 2004
REGISTRATION FORM

NOTICE: THIS REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICE NOT LATER THAN **27 August 2004**. THIS INFORMATION IS NEEDED FOR HEADCOUNT AND PLANNING PURPOSES. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU ONLY PLAN TO ATTEND THE RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (10 September 2004) AND WILL NOT ATTEND THE LUNCHEON.**

CHECK APPROPRIATE BLOCKS AND FILL INFORMATION AS REQUIRED:

I will attend the luncheon (Yes)_____ (No)_____ Guest _____ Enclosed is my payment of _____.

NAME OF RETIREE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NAME OF GUEST _____

MENU
FRIDAY LUNCHEON – 10 September 2004

Mixed Greens with Toppings
Penne Pasta Salad
Fresh Fruit Salad
Grilled Chicken Breast
Roast Beef
Glazed Carrots
Seasonal Vegetables
Wild Rice Pilaf with Pimentos
Rolls & Butter
Chefs Dessert Selections
\$15.00
(INCLUDES GRATUITY)

Please indicate in each block how many reservations you would like. Luncheon reservations must be paid for in advance and need to be returned with this form. No refunds can be made after 15 August 2004 in the event of a cancellation. Please make check or money order payable to RETIREMENT SERVICES and return NLT 27 Aug 2004 to:

Headquarters, 24th Infantry Division (MECH) and Fort Riley
ATTN: AFZN-GA-AS (Retirement Services)
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE FORT RILEY RETIREE COUNCIL PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT OF

AUTHORITY: Sec 3012, Title 10, USC. **PURPOSE:** Furnish information to be used for consideration as a member of a retiree council in the Fort Riley area of responsibility. **USE:** Retiree council membership consideration. **DISCLOSURE** is voluntary. Failure to furnish information will result in individual not being considered as a member of the Council.

NAME	SSN	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	
HOME ADDRESS AND PHONE NO (INCLUDE AREA CODE)			EMPLOYER, ADDRESS, PHONE	
RETIRED GRADE	REASON FOR RETIREMENT			
DATE RETIRED:	%DISABILITY	TITLE III AT AGE 60	OTHER (EXPLAIN)	
LENGTH OF SERVICE:				
SIGNIFICANT DUTY ASSIGNMENTS (FOR THE 5 YEAR PERIOD BEFORE RETIREMENT)				

INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY RETIRED AFFAIRS SINCE RETIREMENT				
RETIREE COUNCIL MEMBER	AS	AT	FROM	TO
VOLUNTEER WORKER	AS	AT	FROM	TO
OFFICE HOLDER	AS	AT	FROM	TO

OTHER INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY RETIRED AFFAIRS SINCE RETIREMENT (LOCATION AND TIME PERIOD)

CURRENT MILITARY RETIREE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

IF ACCEPTED, I AGREE TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE FORT RILEY RETIREE COUNCIL FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED
APPLICATION AND RETURN IT TO THE RETIREMENT
SERVICES OFFICE SO THAT YOU TOO, CAN BE CONSIDERED
FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE FORT RILEY RETIREE COUNCIL.**

COMMON REFERENCE NUMBERS

Organization

Phone Number

Retirement Services	785 239-3320/3667
Irwin Army Community Hospital (IAC) Emergency	785 239-7283
American Red Cross (Emergency)	1-877-272-7337
American Red Cross (Non-Emergency)	785 239-1887
Army Community Service	785 239-9435
Army Emergency Relief	785 239-9435
Family Advocacy Program	785 239-9435
Billeting Office	785 239-3525
Boating/Fishing/Hunting License	785 238-3014
Clothing Sales	785 784-3744
Commissary	785 239-2921
Credit Union One	785 784-3100
Main Post Education Center	785 239-6481
Equal Employment Opportunity	785 239-2595
Equal Opportunity	785 239-2928
TRICARE	785 784-1200
Assistant Inspector General	785 239-9314
Inspector General	785 239-9583
ID Card Office, BLDG 7808	785 239-5667
King Field House (Gym)	785 239-2172
Legal Assistance	785 239-3117
Library	785 239-5308
Post Exchange	785 784-4672
Public Affairs Office	785 239-3032
Arts and Crafts Center	785 239-9205
Custer Hill Bowling Center	785 239-4366
Information, Ticketing, & Registration (ITR)	785 239-5614/4415
Prescription Refill	785 239-7427
Rally Point	785 784-5434

Emergency Numbers

Fire	911
Provost Marshall Office	785 239-2226/8915/3414



DEERS LOCATIONS FOR RETIREE AND DEPENDENT ID CARD RENEWAL

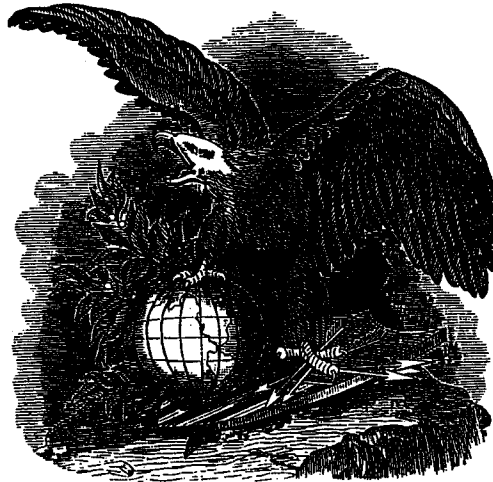
It might interest retirees to know that there are other locations to renew ID Cards, below is a list of these sites. Be sure to call these numbers, as they may require appointments.

155th ARW (ANG)	2925 NW 25th St. Lincoln, NE	402-458-1447
Adjutant General (ARNG)	1776 North 10th, Lincoln, NE	402-458-1447
NRC (Naval Reserve)	4511 NW 42nd St. Lincoln, NE	402-470-2142
National Guard Armory	5710 Airport Rd, Kearney, NE	308-865-5319
Offutt AFB	106 Peacekeeper Dr. Offutt AFB, NE	402-294-2276
PSD (USN)	513 Sac Blvd, Offutt AFB, NE	402-294-5492
119th MSF/DPM (ANG)	1400 28th Ave North, Fargo, ND	701-241-7244
Adjutant General (ARNG)	4200 East Divide Ave, Bismark, ND	701-224-5126
NRC (Naval Reserve)	3920 31st St. North, Fargo ND	701-232-3689
Minot AFB	300 Summit Dr, Minot AFB, ND	701-723-2276
Grand Forks AFB	226 Steen Blvd, Grand Forks, ND	701-747-3845
Camp Grafton (ARNG)	4417 HWY 20, Devil's Lake, ND	701-662-0506
NRC (Naval Reserve)	1800 W. Russell St., Sioux Falls, SD	605-336-2402
Adjutant General SD	2823 W. Main Camp Rapid, Rapid City, SD	605-399-6666
Ellsworth AFB	1000 Ellsworth St. Ellsworth AFB, SD	605-385-2427
National Guard (ARNG)	1900 W. Kemp Ave, Watertown, SD	605-882-9338
114 MSF/DPM (ANG)	1201 W. Algonquin St., Sioux Falls, SD	605-988-5845
USCG Human Resources Svcs	444 SE Quincy Street, Topeka, KS	785-357-3604
NMCRC (Naval Reserve)	3026 George Washington Blvd, Wichita, KS	316-683-3491
McConnell AFB	57798 Leavenworth St., McConnell AFB, KS	316-652-3737
KS Reg Trng Inst.(ARNG)	2850 Scanlan Ave, Salina, KS	785-822-6612
Fort Riley 15th PSD	Bldg 7808, Graves Street, Fort Riley, KS	785-239-5667/5818
Fort Leavenworth	861 McClellan Ave, Ft. Leavenworth, KS	785-684-4454
931st MSF/DPMPs (AFR)	53447 Kansas Court, McConnell AFB, KS	316-759-3625
89th RSC (ARCOM)	2600 N. Woodland, Wichita, KS	316-681-1759x453
69th Troop Cmd (ARNG)	620 North Edgemore, Wichita, KS	316-681-6243
190th MSS/DPM (ANG)	5920 SE Coyote Drive, Topeka, KS	785-861-4130
184th BW/MPF (ANG)	52955 Jayhawk Drive, McConnell AFB, KS	316-687-7836

Department of the Army
Headquarters 24th Infantry Division (MECH) and Fort Riley
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442

Retirement Services Newsletter

Fort Riley
Home of America's Army



FALL 2004

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Commander
Headquarters, 24 INF DIV (MECH) and Fort Riley
ATTN: AFZN-GA-AS
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442-6671
OFFICIAL BUSINESS